

Exp. Hist. Socy. vol. 13.
John Dalry
A
DESCRIPTION
OF THE
GARDENS
OF

Lord Viscount COBHAM,
AT
STOW in BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

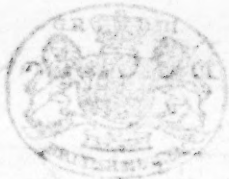
*Here Order in Variety you see,
Where all Things differ, ---- yet where all agree !*

A. POPE.



NORTHAMPTON:

Printed by W. DICEY ; and sold by B. Seeley, Writing-Master,
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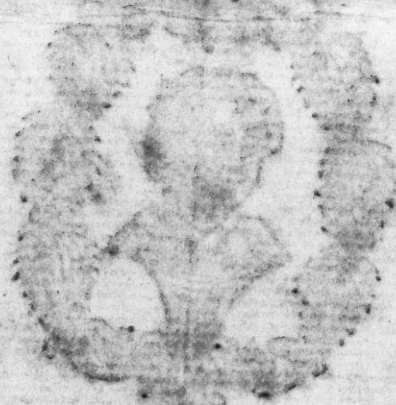
THE following Design is nothing more than to give a plain Account of the GARDENS of the Lord COBHAM at STOW: As they are esteemed, by Persons of the most exact Taste, to be the finest in this Kingdom, and perhaps in Europe, such an Account cannot be altogether disagreeable or useless.

Those who have but seldom seen them, and seen them (as every Person must have done) with Pleasure, may, by this little Assistant, have every pleasing Scene presented to their Imagination in the truest Colours; they may have their Memories refreshed at a Distance, they may have each Building and each Prospect called to their View almost as well

DESCRIPTION
OF THE
GARDENS

OF THE

STEWARTS



By J. G. ...
Printed by ...
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PREFACE.

THE following Design is nothing more than to give a plain Account of the GARDENS of the Lord COBHAM at STOW: As they are esteemed, by Persons of the most exact Taste, to be the finest in this Kingdom, and perhaps in Europe, such an Account cannot be altogether disagreeable or useless.

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as if they were upon the delightful Spot. The Author has taken all imaginable Care to give a simple, regular Relation of every Thing in Order as it lies disposed in the Gardens : There is not need of Art or Embellishment, they want not such mean Artifices to set them off ; the exactest Description must be the greatest Encomium upon them.

Such a Description as this has often been enquired for ; if such an one will be either useful or amusing, the Author gains his Point ; and therefore presents it to the Publick with this View only, that it will save the Trouble of taking down the Inscriptions, or the Names of the Buildings, and be an Help to the Memories of those Numbers who have the Curiosity to see these Gardens.

A
 DESCRIPTION
 OF THE
 GARDENS
 OF
 Lord Viscount Cobham.

AT the South Entrance of the Gardens are two Pavilions supported by Doric Columns. From thence you descend to a large Octagon Piece of Water, with an Obelisk in the Center 70 Feet high, designed for a *Jet d'eau*.

An Artificial Piece of Ruin cover'd with Ever-greens, under which lie the Statues of two River Gods; a beautiful Cascade of three Sheets of Water falls from the Octagon into a large Lake of 10 Acres.

The

The Cold Bath

receives the Water from the Octagon.

The Hermitage

is seated in a rising Wood, on the Banks of the Lake.

The Statues of *Cain* and *Abel*.

The Temple dedicated to *Venus*,
with this Inscription,

Veneri Hortensi.

It is a square Building, design'd by Mr. *Kent* ; the Inside adorn'd with Paintings by Mr. *Slater*, the History of which is taken from *Spencer's Fairy Queen*. Without are the Bustos of *Nero*, *Vespasian*, *Cleopatra*, and *Faustina* ; and on the Frize is the following Motto, alluding to the Painting in the Cave ;

Nunc amet, qui nondum amavit ;
Quique amavit, nunc amet.

Which

Which is thus translated :

Let him love now, who never lov'd before ;
Let him who always lov'd, now love the more.

The Belvidere,
or Gibbs's Building ; under which is the Ice-
House.

Two Pavilions
at the Entrance of the Park, with Roman Sta-
tues in one, and the other inhabited.

An Egyptian Pyramid
60 Feet high, sacred to the Memory of Sir
John Vanbrugh. On the Outside is this In-
scription :

Inter plurima hortorum horum ædificia a
Johanne Vanbrugh, equite, designata, hanc
pyramidem illius memoriæ sacrum voluit
Cobham.

In

In English thus :

Among a very great Number of Structures in these Gardens, design'd by Sir John Vanbrugh, Knight, Cobham thought fit that this Pyramid should be sacred to his Memory.

And in the Inside is :

Lufisti fatis, edisti fatis, atque bibisti :
Tempus abire tibi est ; ne potum largius æquo
Rideat et pulset lasciva decentius ætas.

Which may be thus translated :

Enough you've sported, quaff'd the Bowl, and
eat ;

'Tis time that from the Banquet you retreat,
Lest Youth, more fitly frolicksome, may join
To push you, reeling, under Loads of Wine.

The Statues of *Hercules* and *Anteus*
are placed at the Entrance to the Field, which
is inclosed with a staked Fence in the Military
Way.

St.

St. *Augustine's* Cave

is a Cell form'd of Moss and Roots of Trees interwoven, with a Straw Couch in the Inside, and the three following Inscriptions in Monkish Latin Verse. ---- The Situation is quite natural and simple.

On the Right Hand :

Sanctus pater Augustinus
(Prout aliquis divinus
Narrat) contra sensualem
Actum Veneris lethalem
(Audiant clericus) ex nive
Similem puellam vivæ
Arte mira conformabat
Qua cum bonus vir cubabat
Quod si fas est in errorem
Tantum cadere doctorem
Quæri potest, an carnalis
Mulier potius quam nivalis
Non fit apta ad domandum
Subigendum debellandum
Carnis tumidum furorem
Et importunum ardorem
Nam ignis igni pellitur
Vetus ut verbum loquitur

Sed innuptus, hac in lite
Appellabo te marite.

On the Left :

Apparuit mihi, nuper in Somnio cum nudis
et anhelantibus mulier Papillis & hianti suaviter
Valtu----ehu ! benedicite !

Cur gaudes Satana muliebrem sumere formam
Non facies Voti casti me sumperi normam

Heus fugite in Cellam ! pulchram vitate Puellam
Nam Radix Mortis fuit olim Fœmina in Hortis

Vis fieri fortis ? Noli concumbere Scortis ?

In Sanctum Originem Eunuchum.
Filius Ecclesiæ Origines fortasse probetur ;
Esse Patrem nunquam se sine Teste probet
Virtus Diaboli est in Lumbis.

Fronting the Door :

Mente pie elatâ peragro dum dulcia Prata
Dormiit absq: dolo pulchra Puella solo ;
Multa ostendebat dum semisupina jacebat,
Pulchrum Os divinum pectus, aperta Sinum.

Ut vidi Mammas, concepi ex tempore Flammas,
 Et dicturus ave, dico, Maria, cave
 Nam magno totus violenter turbine motus
 Pœne illam invado, poene et in ora cado.
 Illa sed haud lenté surgit curritq. repenté,
 Currit et, invito me, fugit illa citó,
 Fugit Causa Mali tamen Effectus Satanali
 Internoq' Meum lor vorat Igne reum ;
 O, Inferne Canio curquotidie est tibi Panis,
 Per Vifus miros follicitare Viros ?
 Cur Manachos velles fieri tam Carne rebelles
 Nec caftæ Legi turbida Membra regi
 In tibi jam Bellum dico jam trifte Flagellum
 Esuriemq. paro quëis fubigenda Caro
 Quin abfcindatur ne Pars fincera trahatur
 Radix quâ folus nafcitur ufq. Dolus.

*The Reader is defired to excufe the Transla-
 tion of the foregoing Infcriptions, for fome
 particular Reafons.*

The Temple of *Bacchus*
 is of Brick, the Inſide adorn'd with Paintings
 by Mr. Slater.

A ſmall Obeliſk, with this Inſcription :

To the Memory of Robin Coucher.

The Saxon Temple,

with an Altar placed in an open Grove, round which the seven Deities of this Nation, that give Name to the Days of the Week, were placed, which are since removed to the Gothic Building.

Nelson's Seat

is an airy Recess to the North-West of the House, from whence there is an open Prospect, and in it are the following Inscriptions, describing the Painting.

On the Right Hand :

Ultra Euphratem et Tigrim
usq ad Oceanum propagata ditioe
Orbis Terrarum Imperium Romæ adsignat optimus Princeps
cui super advolat Victoria
Laurigerum sertum hinc inde
utraq manu extendens
comitantibus Pietate et Abundantia
in ara Constantine

Thus

Thus translated :

The most excellent Prince
 having extended his Power beyond the *Euphrates* and *Tygris*,
 as far as the Ocean,
 assigns the Empire of the World to *Rome* ;
 over whom flies *Victory*,
 stretching forth a Laurel Crown
 on each Side with both Hands,
 accompany'd with *Piety* and *Plenty*,
 on the Altar of *Constantine*.

On the Left :

Post Obitum L. Veri
 in imperio cum Marco confortis,
 Roma
 integram orbis Terrarum
 potestatem ei et in eo contulit
 in Capitolio

In English thus :

After the Death of *Lucius Verus*,
 Partner in the Empire with *Marcus*,
 Rome
 conferr'd on him and in him
 the whole Power over the World
 in the Capitol,
 Opposite

Opposite the North Front of the House, at the Head of the Canal, is the Equestrian Statue of his late Majesty, in Armour.

The North Front of the House extends, with the Offices, 640 Feet in Breadth, having an open View, bounded by a Semi-Circle of Trees at some Miles distance.

Opposite the South Front was the Parterre, with the Statues of *Apollo* and the nine Muses, and two Orangeries; but this is alter'd to make room for a nobler Prospect.

The Statue of his present Majesty is erected on a Corinthian Pillar, with this Inscription :

Georgio Augusto.

Dido's Cave

is an antique dark Stone Building, with this Inscription :

Speluncam Dido, dux & Trojanus, candem
Deveniunt - - - - -

In English thus :

Repairing to the same dark Cave are seen
The *Trojan* Hero and the *Tyrian* Queen.

The Rotunda

is raised on Ionic Pillars on a gentle Rise, within is the Statue of *Venus de Medicis*, gilt, on a Pedestal of blue Marble. The Building is the Design of Sir *John Vanbrugh*. - - - The Views from hence are enchanting.

The late Queen's Statue

is erected on four Ionic Columns, in a green Amphitheatre laid out in the rural Way, with this Inscription :

Honori, Laudi, Virtuti Divæ Carolinæ.

To the Honour, Praise, and Virtue of the
Divine *Caroline*.

The Sleeping Parlour

is placed in a close Wood where six Walks meet. It is a square Building, with this Inscription :

Cum omnia sint in incerto, fave tibi.

Which

Which is ;

Since all Things are uncertain, indulge thyself.

From hence you come into the great Avenue, where, on the Right Hand, you have the Prospect of the Entrance to the Gardens (mentioned before); and, on the Left, the Mansion-House, which, with the Additions now building, makes a grand Appearance.

The Witch-House,

Not far from the Witch-House is a House that formerly belonged to the Vicar ; near this are placed on Pedestals, *Apollo* and the nine Muses round the Spring of *Helicon*.

The Temple of modern Virtue, in Ruin.

The Temple of antient Virtue is a Rotunda of the Doric Order by Mr. *Kent* ; and on the Outside over each Door is this Motto ;

Priscae Virtuti.

To antient Virtue.

and

And in four Niches within, standing at full Length, are the four following Statues, viz.

1. Epaminondas,
with this Inscription :

Cujus a virtute, prudentia verecundia,
Thebanorum respublica
Libertatem simul & imperium,
Disciplinam bellicam, civilem & domesticam
Accepit ;
Eoque amisso, perdidit.

That is :

From whose Valour, Prudence, and Moderation, the Republick of *Thebes* received both Liberty and Empire ; its military, civil, and domestick Discipline ; and, with him, lost them.

2. Lycurgus,

with this :

Qui summo cum consilio inventis legibus,
Omnemque contra corruptelam munitis optime,

Pater patriæ,
Libertatem firmissimam,
Et mores sanctissimos,

C

Expulsa

Expulſa cum divitiis avaritia, luxuria, libidine,
In multa ſecula
Civibus ſuis inſtituit.

Thus translated :

Who having invented Laws with the greateſt Wiſdom, and moſt excellently fenced them againſt all Corruption, as a Father of his Country, inſtituted for his Countrymen the firmeſt Liberty and the ſoundeſt Morality, which endured for many Ages, he having, together with Riches, baniſhed Avarice, Luxury, and Luſt.

3. Socrates.

Qui corruptiſſima in civitate innocens,
Bonorum hortator, unci cultor D E I,
Ab inutili otio, & vanis diſputationibus,
Ad officia vitæ, & ſocietatis comoda,
Philoſophiam avocavit,
Hominum ſapientiſſimus.

That is :

Who being innocent in a moſt corrupt State, an Encourager of the Good, a Worſhiper of one only God, as the wiſeſt of Men reduced
Philo-

Philosophy from useless Indolence, and vain Disputations, to the Duties of Life, and the Advantages of Society.

4. *Homerus.*

Qui poetarum princeps, idem & maximus,
Virtutis præco, & immortalitatis largitor

Divino carmine,

Ad pulcre audendum, & patiendum fortiter,
Omnibus notus gentibus, omnes incitat.

Thus rendered :

Who being the first of Poets, as he was the greatest, the Herald of Virtue, and Bestower of Immortality, known to all Nations, incites all, in a Divine Poem, honourably to dare, and resolutely to suffer.

Over one Door is this Inscription :

Charum esse civem, bene de republica mereri,
laudari, coli, diligì, gloriosum est : metui vero,
& in odio esse, invidiosum, detestabile, imbecillum, caducum.

Which is :

To be dear to our Country, to deserve well of the State, to be praised, honoured, and beloved,

loved, is glorious ; but to be dreaded and hated
is Matter of ill Will, detestable, weak, ruinous.

Over the other Door this :

Justitiam cole & pietatem, quæ cum sit
magna in parentibus & propinquis, tum in patria
maxima est. Ea vita via est in cœlum, & in
hunc cœtum eorum, qui jam vixerunt.

In English thus :

Maintain Justice, and thy relative Duty ;
which, as it is great, when exercised toward
our Parents and Kindred, so is greater toward
our Country. That Life is the Way to Hea-
ven, and to this Assembly of those who have
already lived.

The Parish Church.

The Serpentine River,
at the Head of which is the Grotto, and on
each Side two Pavillions, the one ornamented
with Shells, as the other is with Pebbles and
Flints broke to pieces. - - - The Grotto is fur-
nished with a great Number of Looking-glasses
both on the Walls and Cieling, all in artificial
Frames

Frames of Plaister-work, set with Shells and broken Flints - - - - a Marble Statue of *Venus* on a Pedestal stuck with the same.

The Chinese-House

is situated in a Pond, and you enter it by a Bridge adorn'd with Chinese Vases, with Flowers in them. It is a square Building with four Lattices, and cover'd with Sail-cloth to preserve the Lustre of the Paintings ; in it is a Chinese Lady as if asleep, her Hands covered by her Gown. In the Pond are the Figures of two Chinese Birds about the Size of a Duck, which move with the Wind as if alive. The Outside of the House is painted in the Taste of that Nation, by Mr. *Slater* ; the Inside is India japann'd Work.

The Shell-Bridge,

which brings you into the Elyfian Fields, which well deserve that Name ; where stands

The Temple of Worthies ;

a Building cut into Niches, wherein are placed the following Bustos. The first is

Mr. Pope,
with no Inscription.

Sir

Sir Thomas Gresham,

Who, by the honourable Profession of a Merchant, having enrich'd himself, and his Country, for carrying on the Commerce of the World built the Royal Exchange.

Ignatius Jones,

Who, to adorn his Country, introduc'd and rival'd the Greek and Roman Architecture.

John Milton,

Whose sublime and unbounded Genius equal'd a Subject that carried him beyond the Limits of the World.

William Shakespear,

Whose excellent Genius open'd to him the whole Heart of Man, all the Mines of Fancy, all the Stores of Nature ; and gave him Power, beyond all other Writers, to move, astonish, and delight Mankind.

John Lock,

Who, best of all, Philosophers, understood the Powers of the human Mind ; the Nature, End, and Bounds of Civil Government ; and,
with

with equal Courage and Sagacity, refuted the slavish Systems of usurp'd Authority over the Rights, the Consciences, or the Reason of Mankind.

Sir Isaac Newton,

Whom the God of Nature made to comprehend his Works ; and, from simple Principles, to discover the Laws never known before, and to explain the Appearance never understood, of this Stupendous Universe.

Sir Fra. Bacon, *Lord Verulam*,

Who by the Strength and Light of a superior Genius, rejecting vain Speculation, and fallacious Theory, taught to pursue Truth, and improve Philosophy by the certain Method of Experiment.

In the Niche of a Pyramid is placed a Mercury, with these Words subscribed :

----- Campos Ducit ad Elyfios.

----- Leads to the Elyfian Fields.

And below this Figure is fix'd a Square of black Marble, with the following Lines :

Hic

Hic manus ob patriam pugnando vulnera passi,
 Quique pii vates, & Phœbo digna locuti,
 Inventas aut qui vitam excoluere per artes,
 Quique sui memores alios fecere merendo.

Thus translated :

Here are the Bands, who for their Country bled,
 And Bards, whose pure and sacred Verse is read :
 Those, who, by Arts invented, Life improv'd,
 And, by their Merits, made their Mem'ries lov'd.

King Alfred,

The mildest, justest, most beneficent of
 Kings ; who drove out the Danes, secur'd the
 Seas, protected Learning, establish'd Juries,
 crush'd Corruption, guarded Liberty, and was
 the Founder of the English Constitution.

Edward, Prince of Wales,

The Terror of Europe, the Delight of Eng-
 land ; who preserv'd, unalter'd, in the Height
 of Glory and Fortune, his natural Gentleness
 and Modesty.

Queen

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Who,
 Britons th

Queen Elizabeth,

Who confounded the Projects, and destroy'd
the Power that threaten'd to oppress the Liber-
ties of Europe ; took off the Yoke of Ecclesi-
astical Tyranny ; restored Religion from the
Corruptions of Popery ; and by a wise, a mo-
derate, and a popular Government, gave Wealth,
Security, and Respect to England.

King William 3^d.

Who by his Virtue and Constancy, having
saved his Country from a foreign Master, by a
bold and generous Enterprize, preserv'd the
Liberty and Religion of Great Britain.

Sir Walter Ralieggh,

A valiant Soldier, and an able Statesman ;
who endeavouring to rouse the Spirit of his
Master, for the Honour of his Country, against
the Ambition of Spain, fell a Sacrifice to the
Influence of that Court, whose Arms he had
vanquish'd, and whose Designs he oppos'd.

Sir Francis Drake,

Who, through many Perils, was the first of
Britons that adventur'd to sail round the Globe ;

D

and

and carried into unknown Seas and Nations the
Knowledge and Glory of the English Name.

John Hampden,

Who with great Spirit, and consummate Abilities, begun a noble Opposition to an arbitrary Court, in Defence of the Liberties of his Country ; supported them in Parliament, and died for them in the Field.

Sir John Barnard,
with no Inscription.

On the Backside of this Building is the following Monument, with this Inscription :

To the Memory
of

Signor Fido,

an Italian of good Extraction ;
who came into England,
not to bite us, like most of his Countrymen,
but to gain an honest Livelyhood.

He hunted not after Fame,
yet acquir'd it ;
regardless of the Praise of his Friends,
but most sensible of their Love.

Th

Tho' he liv'd amongst the Great,
he neither learnt nor flatter'd any Vice.

He was no Bigot,
Tho' he doubted of none of the 39 Articles.

And, if to follow Nature,
and to respect the Laws of Society,

be Philosophy,
he was a perfect Philosopher ;

a faithful Friend,
an agreeable Companion,
a loving Husband,

distinguish'd by a numerous Offspring,
all which he liv'd to see take good Courses.

In his old Age he retir'd
to the House of a Clergyman in the Country,
where he finish'd his earthly Race,
and died an Honour and an Example to the whole Species.

Reader,

this Stone is guiltless of Flattery ;

for he to whom it is inscrib'd

was not a Man,

but a

Grey-Hound.

The Temple of Liberty

is a large Gothic Building of red Stone, 70 Feet
high, on the Brow of the Hill ; round which

are placed the seven Statues mentioned before.

On the Left Hand stands my Lady's Temple but not finish'd. It commands a beautiful Prospect over the Country.

The Palladian Bridge ;

where is a Collection of antique Bustoes of Marble : The Roof, on the Side facing the Water, is supported by Ionic Columns ; the Backside of it by an Alto-Relievo of the four Quarters of the World bringing their Productions to *Britannia*.

Here are likewise painted by Mr. Slater Sir *Walter Raleigh*, with a Map of *Virginia* in his Hand ; and Sir *William Penn*, holding a Book, titled, *The Laws of Pennsylvania*.

The Imperial Closet

is a Room of a Cubic Form, and in it are the three following Figures, painted at full Length, by Mr. Slater.

Imp. Titus Cæs. Vespasian.

with his Saying over his Head,

Diem perdidit - - - - I have lost a Day.

Imp.

Imp. N. Trajan. Cæf. Au.

with his Saying,

Pro me : si merear, in me.

For me : but, if I deserve it, against me.

Imp. Marcus Aurelius

Cæfar Antoninus.

with his Saying :

Ita regnes imperator, ut privatus regi te velis.

So govern, when an Emperor, as, if a private
Person, you would desire to be governed.

This brings you upon the great Terrace-
Walk, which is near 3000 Feet long.

The Temple of Friendship ;
a noble Structure, of the Doric Order. On the
Outside is this Motto :

Amicitiae S. - - - Sacred to Friendship.

Within is painted, on the Cieling, *Britannia*,
with some other Figures ; one holds a Label,
with

with these Words, *The Reign of K. Edward 3.*
another a Scroll with, *The Reign of Q. Elizabeth*;
and another with, *The Reign of the* the
rest being cover'd with her Mantle: And several other Ornaments in Painting, by Mr. Slater.

Also in this are the following ten Bustoes of my Lord and his illustrious Friends, viz. the Prince of *Wales* - - - Earls of *Westmoreland*, *Chesterfield*, and *Marchmont* - - - Lords *Cobham*, *Gower*, and *Bathurst* - - - *Richard Greenville*, *William Pitt*, and *George Lyttleton*, Esqrs.

The Pebble Alcove

is a neat Recess, and very artfully imbellished with Pebbles; his Lordship's Arms are perform'd with the same, and display'd in proper Colours.

Congreve's Monument

is an Urn, which, with great Art, expresses the Genius of the Man; and at the Top of it is placed a Monkey, beholding himself in a Mirror, and under him this Writing:

Vitæ imitatio,
Consuetudinis speculum,
Comœdia.

That

That is :

Comedy is the Imitation of Life, and the Glass
of Fashion.

The Poet's Effigies, lying in a careless Posture, has the following Inscription :

Ingenio
Acri, faceto, expolito,
Moribusque
Urbanis, candidis, facillimis,
Gulielmi Congreve,
Hoc
Quaecunque desiderii fui
Salamen simul &
Monumentum
Posuit COBHAM.
1736.

Thus translated :

In the Year 1736, COBHAM erected this
poor Consolation for, as well as Monument of,
his Loss of the piercing, elegant, polished Wit,
and civilized, candid, most unaffected Manners,
of WILLIAM CONGREVE.

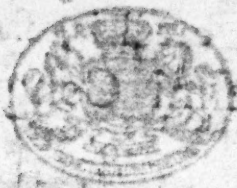
F I N I S.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

WASHINGTON, D. C.



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

FOR LAND MANAGEMENT

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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